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Agenda item 66
Rights of indigenous peoples

Draft resolution submitted by the President of the General Assembly

Organization of the High-level Plenary Meeting of the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly, to be known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples

The General Assembly,

Recalling the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples,[1] which addresses the individual and collective rights of indigenous peoples,

Recalling also all relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, the Human Rights Council and the Economic and Social Council relating to the rights of indigenous peoples,

Reaffirming its resolution 65/198 of 21 December 2010, by which it decided to organize a high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly, to be known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, to be held in 2014, in order to share perspectives and best practices on the realization of the rights of indigenous peoples, including to pursue the objectives of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples,

Encouraging the participation of indigenous peoples in the World Conference,

Recalling its resolution 59/174 of 20 December 2004, by which it proclaimed the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People (2004-2014), and recognizing that challenges remain in meeting the goals and objectives of the Second Decade,

Inviting Governments and indigenous peoples to organize international or regional conferences and other thematic events to contribute to the preparations for the World Conference,

Taking note of the activities relating to the World Conference undertaken by the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and the Expert Mechanism on the Rights

[1] General Assembly resolution 61/295, annex.

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of Indigenous Peoples, in addition to the engagement of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples, in the preparatory process for the World Conference,

Encouraging the continued active engagement of indigenous peoples in the preparations for the World Conference, including at the regional and global levels,

1. *Decides* that the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly, to be known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, will be held on 22 September 2014 and on the afternoon of 23 September 2014 in New York;

2. *Encourages* all Member States to consider being represented at the World Conference at the Head of State or Government level;

3. *Decides* that the organizational arrangements for the World Conference shall be as follows:

(a) The World Conference will be composed of two plenary meetings in the form of an opening and a closing session, three interactive round-table discussions and one interactive panel discussion, with the opening meeting beginning at 9 a.m. on 22 September, followed, in the afternoon, by two round-table discussions taking place simultaneously;

(b) The speakers at the opening meeting will be the President of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Heads of State or Government or high-level representatives of Member States from each regional group, the Chair of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and three representatives of indigenous peoples who will be proposed by indigenous peoples and subsequently designated by the President of the Assembly after consultations with Member States;

(c) The round-table discussions and the interactive panel discussion will be co-chaired by one Member State and one representative of indigenous peoples who will be proposed by indigenous peoples and subsequently designated by the President of the General Assembly after consultations with Member States;

(d) The Chair of the Permanent Forum, the Chair-Rapporteur of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples will be invited to participate in the interactive panel discussion;

(e) The proceedings of the round-table discussions and interactive panel discussion will be webcast;

(f) The co-chairs of the round-table discussions and the panel discussion will present summaries of the discussions at the closing plenary meeting;

(g) To promote interactive and substantive dialogue, participation in the round-table and interactive panel discussions will include Member States, observers and representatives of entities of the United Nations system, indigenous peoples, civil society organizations and national human rights institutions;

(h) Organizations and institutions of indigenous peoples interested in participating in the World Conference, and whose aims and purposes are in conformity with the spirit, purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, should be invited to submit applications for accreditation to the Secretariat

through an open and transparent procedure, in accordance with the established practice for the accreditation of representatives of organizations and institutions of indigenous peoples, which will provide for timely and comprehensive information on the participation of such organizations and institutions of indigenous peoples for consideration by Member States;

(i) The President of the General Assembly shall draw up a list of representatives of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council who may participate in the World Conference;

(j) The President of the General Assembly shall draw up a list of representatives of other relevant non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, academic institutions, national human rights institutions and the private sector who may participate in the World Conference, for submission to Member States for their consideration on a non-objection basis, and bring the list to the attention of the General Assembly;

4. *Encourages* Member States to consider including representatives of indigenous peoples in their delegations to the World Conference;

5. *Encourages* the full and effective participation of indigenous women, young people, older persons and persons with disabilities in the World Conference;

6. *Encourages* United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, and regional commissions of the United Nations, in accordance with their mandates, actively to engage in the process leading to the World Conference;

7. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly to organize, no later than June 2014, an informal interactive hearing with representatives of indigenous peoples, representatives of entities of the United Nations system, academic institutions, national human rights institutions, parliamentarians, civil society and non-governmental organizations, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the present resolution, to provide valuable input into the preparatory process for the World Conference;

8. *Encourages* Member States actively to participate in the interactive hearing to facilitate the best possible interaction and dialogue between Member States and representatives of indigenous peoples, non-governmental organizations and civil society organizations;

9. *Decides* that the World Conference shall result in a concise, action-oriented outcome document, and requests the President of the General Assembly to prepare a draft text, on the basis of consultations with Member States and indigenous peoples and by taking into account the views emerging from the preparatory process and the informal interactive hearing referred to in paragraph 7 of the present resolution, and to convene inclusive and open informal consultations at an appropriate date to enable sufficient consideration by Member States and agreement by the General Assembly before its formal action at the high-level meeting;

10. *Also decides* that the action-oriented outcome document should contribute to the realization of the rights of indigenous peoples, pursue the objectives of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and promote the achievement of all internationally agreed development goals;

11. *Encourages* Member States and indigenous peoples to disseminate the results of international, regional or thematic conferences organized by them, as widely as possible, in order to contribute to the preparations for the World Conference;

12. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly, in consultation with Member States and representatives of indigenous peoples, to finalize the organizational arrangements for the World Conference, including the definition of the specific themes for the round-table discussions and the interactive panel discussion, the possible inclusion of an opening ceremony involving indigenous peoples, taking into account the relevant provisions of the present resolution and the inclusive process for the discussion of the outcome document, and the identification of the chairs of the round-table discussions and panel discussion, taking into account the level of representation and adequate geographical representation;

13. *Decides* to expand the mandate of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations so that it can assist, in an equitable manner, representatives of indigenous peoples, organizations, institutions and communities to participate in the World Conference, including in the preparatory process, in accordance with the relevant rules and regulations;

14. *Urges* Governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to continue to contribute to the Fund, and invites indigenous organizations and private institutions and individuals to do likewise;

15. *Encourages* Member States, organizations and institutions of indigenous peoples, entities of the United Nations system, the private sector, non-governmental organizations and others to actively support activities and events of indigenous peoples in preparation for the World Conference and to organize side events and other relevant thematic and cultural activities in New York that would add to the value and visibility of the World Conference.